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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 126
By Burks

A RESOLUTION To congratulate Tennessee Technological University Coach Jeff Lebo on being selected as 2000-01 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year.

WHEREAS, The Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those athletes and coaches who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as extraordinary ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Lebo, men's basketball coach at Tennessee Technological University, is one such estimable Tennessean; a standout among his peers, he was recently selected as 2000-01 Coach of the Year for the Ohio Valley Conference; and

WHEREAS, Coach Lebo's recent recognition adds another honor to a remarkable list of basketball accomplishments; in all of his endeavors, he has consistently attained unrivalled success and risen above his competition; and

WHEREAS, While playing under his father, David Lebo, Jeff Lebo led Pennsylvania's Carlisle High School to three consecutive AAAA State Championships; a consensus All-

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American, he was a member of the prestigious *Parade* All-American team and of both the Converse and Adidas Coaches Association Academic All-American teams; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Lebo continued his playing career on the famed University of North Carolina basketball team; a four-year letterman, he was the team's starting point guard for three and a half seasons and was team captain during his senior season; and

WHEREAS, A standout in the talent-laden Atlantic Coast Conference, Mr. Lebo earned recognition as a member of the 1988 All-ACC Team and the 1987 and 1989 All-ACC Tournament Teams; an Academic All-American, he was also a member of the 1988-89 U.S. Basketball Writers All-District Team, 1989 Nike/NABC All-America East Team, and 1987 Pan American Basketball Team; and

WHEREAS, A legendary part of the rich history of North Carolina basketball, Jeff Lebo established school records for single season free throw percentage, career free throw percentage, consecutive free throws made, career three point field goals, and assists in a single game; he dished out the fourth most assists of any University of North Carolina basketball player and ranks among the top twenty scorers in the program's history; and

WHEREAS, Committed to the academic interests which are vital to the concept of the student-athlete, Jeff Lebo earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and received the Patterson Award as the top student-athlete at the University of North Carolina relative to academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, After playing one NBA season with the San Antonio Spurs, Jeff Lebo returned to college basketball as an assistant coach at East Tennessee State University; during his two seasons at ETSU, the team won two Southern Conference Championships, earned two berths in the NCAA tournament, defeated second-seeded Arizona in the 1992 tournament, and compiled a record of fifty-two wins with only twelve losses; and

WHEREAS, During the 1992-93 season, Coach Lebo served as an assistant coach under National Coach of the Year, Eddie Fogler at Vanderbilt University; the undersized

Vanderbilt squad exceeded all expectations as they won the Southeastern Conference Championship and reached the Sweet Sixteen in the NCAA tournament; and

WHEREAS, After the 1992-93 season, Jeff Lebo joined Coach Fogler in moving to the University of South Carolina; together, they rebuilt the South Carolina program, winning the SEC Championship in only their fourth season and earning a national ranking of fifteenth in both polls during Coach Lebo's fifth and final season at South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jeff Lebo took the reigns of Tennessee Tech's men's basketball team in 1998; during the 1998-99 season, the Tennessee Tech program began its ascension to the top of the OVC, as they were the surprise team of the league during the season's second half; and

WHEREAS, The 1999-2000 season was one of the best in Tennessee Tech history; the team finished 16-12 overall with a conference record of 11-7, earning Coach Lebo recognition as OVC Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, This year's team built on last year's success and surpassed it; the 2000-01 Tennessee Tech squad compiled an overall record of 20-9 with a conference record of 13-3 to win the program's first OVC Championship in sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, Coach Lebo's team led its conference in scoring margin and rebounding margin, despite not having a starting player taller than six feet and six inches; remarkably consistent, they also finished second in the league in turnover margin, three point shots made, steals per game, scoring defense, free throw percentage, and rebounding defense, and they were among the nation's top twenty teams relative to free throw percentage; and

WHEREAS, Fearful of no team, Tennessee Tech has consistently played against some of the greatest teams in college basketball, including North Carolina, Alabama, Iowa, and Notre Dame; this season they traveled to the University of South Carolina and defeated the Gamecocks on their home court; and

WHEREAS, At the conclusion of the 2000-01 season, Coach Lebo was recognized for the second consecutive season as OVC Coach of the Year; he has earned the respect of his peers and the college basketball community for unsurpassed quality of his work, his innate teaching talents, and his tremendous commitment and work ethic; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Lebo “was born to coach,” according to Eddie Fogler, who has also said, “Nobody works harder and understands technique better than Jeff Lebo”; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his skill as a teacher of basketball, Coach Lebo is committed to helping his athletes develop as well-rounded young men; he makes every effort to ensure their academic success and is always available to assist in any problem that might arise for the members of his teams; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Lebo is also devoted to the highest level of family values; he shares much love and companionship with his wife, the former Melissa Mills, and they are the proud and loving parents of two daughters, Addison and Mills; and

WHEREAS, Having served at three institutions of higher education in Tennessee, Jeff Lebo has repeatedly led his basketball teams to national prominence and garnered many accolades; he serves as a fine example of this State’s populace and is worthy of our respect and admiration; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we join the players, administration, and fans of Tennessee Technological University in congratulating Jeff Lebo on being selected as 2000-01 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year and wish him every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

